

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teen Challenge Teams up with Covelli Centre

YOUNGSTOWN, OH- November 13, 2009- The Covelli Centre welcomes Teen Challenge to participate in facility operations as a part of their faith-based rehabilitation program. Teen Challenge is a world wide organization committed to providing alternative solutions to men with substance abuse issues. The Covelli Centre will provide opportunities for the youth and adults enrolled in the program to participate in work-related projects as a part of their rehabilitation into the community.

Director of Facilities, Brandon Bucar says that the first meeting between the two occurred during a basketball tournament held last winter at the Covelli Centre. "We noticed they were well-staffed and we found out facilities such as Heinz Field utilized their services as well," he explains. Bucar says Teen Challenge participants were brought in for training along with the facility's part-time staff. They were trained in areas such as set-up and tear-down of staging, setting chairs, and post-event procedures. Bucar recalls Live Nation promoters complimenting the Covelli Centre and Teen Challenge on their efficiency. "They said we've raised the bar and that it would be difficult for other buildings to match," he says. "I truly believe organizations such as Teen Challenge will change the business model of our industry because it's difficult to find good, dependable part-time employees due to the nature of our business," he finishes.

Pastor Roy Barnett leads the valley's Teen Challenge residential center. Pastor Roy's assistant, Cathy Barnett, describes the relationship with the Covelli Centre as "an excellent avenue to teach our men how to apply what they are learning daily in class to everyday situations." She also states that the 12-month program costs each client \$1,000.00 per year and they rely heavily upon donations from outside sources to assist the men. "Our partnership with the Covelli Centre helps us to offset the cost of running this program," she says. Barnett echoes Bucar's sentiment saying, "The men have really enjoyed the opportunity to clean, set up, and tear down after many different types of events. Your staff has been wonderful to work with, and we look forward to a long successful partnership with the Covelli Centre."



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Teen Challenge was founded by former rural preacher David Wilkerson. Wilkerson became passionate about the salvation of teens when he attended a New York murder trial of seven teenagers involved in gang activities. In 1960, Wilkerson opened his first rehabilitation center in New York City. He designed the program to develop individuals spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially, and educationally in an attempt to provide alternative solutions to drug and alcohol abuse.

Today, Teen Challenge has 195 centers across the country and 550 in the world. The men are taught to give back to the community in which they live. For example, Puerto Rico's Teen Challenge center is giving back to their community by building a new AIDS hospital. David Wilkerson still preaches today at the Times Square Church he founded in 1987.



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